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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, the source of all freedom, thank You for people who join You in bringing deliverance to captives and healing to those who are bruised. Continue to bless those men and women who are Your hands, heart, voice, and feet in these challenging times. Support them all the day long until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and their work is done.

Lord, when their light of hope is threatened, renew them with faith in Your providence and power. Make them more than victorious because of Your great love.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 28, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Omar Antonio Williams, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ATTORNEY GENERAL GARLAND

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday brought reports that carjackings in my hometown of Louisville were up 150 percent since 2019, and the city's 2021 murder total is rapidly closing in on an alltime record that was set just last year.

These aren't just local problems; they are national trends. Twenty-twenty saw the homicide rate jump more than at any point in over a century—

the worst spike in the murder rate in more than 100 years.

The law enforcement crises don't stop there. Our southern border saw more illegal crossings last year than in any year on record. Yet ICE has made its fewest interior arrests in a decade.

A crime epidemic and a border crisis—these are the sorts of problems you might expect the Nation's top law enforcement officer to face head-on. These are the sorts of issues that should keep the Department of Justice up all night long. But, alas, Attorney General Garland has other priorities.

The AG made waves this month with a bizarre memo that directed the FBI, along with DOJ's Criminal, National Security, and Civil Rights Divisions, to focus—now listen to this—special attention and security on parents—parents—who have opinions about their local school boards.

Yesterday, under questioning from the Judiciary Committee, the Attorney General seemed absolutely incapable of giving a satisfactory explanation as to why the parents of America are his A-1 priority; nor could he explain why this bizarre guidance came just days—days—after a powerful interest group sent a letter demanding this action.

Actually—listen to this—the interest group has already apologized for the letter. They say they regret sending it. But the Attorney General won't budge from his shocking guidance even after the special interests that asked for it have backed away. Apparently, the instant that special interests ask the Biden administration to jump, the Attorney General responds: How high?

The Attorney General insisted that all his Department is concerned about is “violence and threats of violence.” Well, of course violence and threats are always wrong. They are also already illegal and already the purview of local law enforcement.

There is no evidence that America's concerned parents needed to be singled out as targets of this J. Edgar Hoover

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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